

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 3 and 7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 10 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - image carrying member; and
 - an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying member at first and second transfer positions, wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,
 - wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,
 - wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from said nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material, and
 - wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_{ab} , a circumference of said intermediate transfer

body in the moving direction is denoted as L_r , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_m :

$$L_r - L_m > L_{ab}$$

wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate transfer body where the toner images are formed successively. $L_r - L_m > L_{ab}$.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is immobilized in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body where the toner images are formed successively.

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from 10^7 Ohm per square (Ω/\square) to 10^{12} Ohm per square (Ω/\square).

5. **(Currently Amended)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

image carrying member; and
an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying member at first and second transfer positions,

wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from said nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lab , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as Lr , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lm :

$Lr - Lm > Lab$, and

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a downstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the toner images are formed successively.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image carrying member; and

an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying member at first and second transfer positions,

wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lab , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as Lr , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lm :

$$Lr - Lm \leq Lab, [[and]]$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the toner images are formed ~~successively~~: successively, and
wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer
body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate
transfer body where the toner images are formed successively.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from 10^7 Ohm per square(Ω/\square) to 10^{12} Ohm per square(Ω/\square).

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, [[3,]] wherein a cleaning device is disposed at a certain position around said intermediate transfer body.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, [[7,]] wherein a cleaning device is disposed at a certain position around said intermediate transfer body.

11. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
image carrying member; and

an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying member at first and second transfer positions,

wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lab , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as Lr , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as Lm :

$$Lr - Lm \leq Lab, \text{ and}$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body so that distance between a first toner image and a second toner image is larger than the length Lab at each image formation where the toner images are formed successively.